

**REMARKS**

This Amendment is submitted responsive to the Official Office Action mailed October 7, 2005 in which claims 1-6 and 8-13 were rejected under. Claim 7 was not specifically rejected under this or any other section of 35 USC.

However, Claim 7 has been treated as if the rejection under 35 USC § 102(e) was similarly applied to it in light of the text of the rejection where claim 7 is treated as if it had been similarly rejected. If this treatment is incorrect, please disregard the argument relative to claim 7 below.

Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as anticipated by House et al., USP 6,648,305. Claims 14 -17 were earlier withdrawn from further consideration.

With regard to claim 1, an independent claim, recites "... a depression in the end of said tensioner ...."

The area identified by the letter "A" in the rejection is located "on" the exterior of the tensioner of the prior art, not "in" the end of the tensioner of the claimed invention.

The LANGENSCHIEDT'S NEW COLLEGE MERRIAM WEBSTER English Dictionary was copyrighted in the United States in 1996 by Merriam Webster, Inc. Springfield, Massachusetts Attachment A..

The above English Dictionary, defines a "depression" with several definitions, but with one definition relevant to the mechanical device being claimed. That definition is "a depressed place or part: hollow."

This, just recited definition is shown on page 311 of The LANGENSCHIEDT'S NEW COLLEGE MERRIAM WEBSTER English Dictionary, Attachment B, at the point in the left column where

an arrow has been inserted.

The usage of the term “depressed” to describe the hollow opening 44 in the end of the tensioner 26 shown in Fig. 3 of the application drawings is consistent with the drawing and clearly and precisely defines the depressed region and its location.

The prior art, House et al., does not show, teach or illustrate and does not describe a depressed area in the end of the tensioner.

Accordingly, the claim is not anticipated and the claim should be allowed.

Similarly, all claims dependent upon Claim 1 should also be allowed.

In order to provide a complete response to the Final Rejection, Applicant now will answer the rejection of all the dependent claims.

Claim 2, dependent upon claim 1 and containing the same limitations of claim 1, should be allowed.

Claim 3 requires a unitary body.

The LANGENSCHIEDT'S NEW COLLEGE MERRIAM WEBSTER English Dictionary cited above, at page 1293 at a point indicated by an arrow defines “unitary” as “having the character of a unit: undivided, whole.”

The device disclosed by House, et al. does not show or teach a unitary body, as defined by the identified English Dictionary.

Also, claim 3 is dependent upon claim 1 and accordingly contains all the limitations of claim 1.

Accordingly, claim 3 should be allowed and passed to issue.

Claim 4, is dependent upon claim 1 and as it contains all limitations of claim 1 is allowable and should be allowed.

Claim 5 requires a widening of said opening to accommodate thickened portions of said flexible member.

The opening of the prior art, House et al., does not disclose nor teach a widening of the opening extending substantially parallel to the axis of the cylinder. Items 36, 38 and 40 are grooves cut into the circumferential periphery of the cylinder. This cutting into the periphery of the cylinder does nothing to widen the opening at any point along its length. The opening will only engage the thickened portion of the flexible material where the wires are enclosed and will not engage nor permit engagement of the webs between the thickened portion of the flexible material by the cylinder, between the wires as does Applicant's device.

This limitation is not found in the prior art cited, House et al. Accordingly, claim 5 should be allowed.

Claim 6 requires a specific location of the widened opening. The opening in House, et al does not have any widened locations and therefore does not meet the claim of Applicant.

Claim 6 is dependent upon claim 5 and indirectly upon claim 4 and claim 1 and contains all limitations of claims 1, 4 and 5.

Accordingly, claim 6 should be allowed as not met by the teachings or disclosure of the prior art cited and relied upon, House et al.

Claim 7 has been amended to insert the proper word "tension" into the claim. The spring in the

House, et al patent is a leaf spring and not a tension spring.

Additionally, claim 7 is dependent upon Claim 2 and indirectly upon Claim 1.

Accordingly, claim 7 should be allowed.

Claim 8 requires that the pawl have a face on its engaging end that is perpendicular to the pawl.

The pawl end of House et al. is a partial cylindrical surface and the face is not perpendicular to the body of the pawl. The pawl end of House, et al. being a partial cylinder and the receiving surface being concave in nature and a further partial cylinder will engage the ratchet wheel at only a line of contact with the ratchet wheel because of variations in the manufacturing of the two surfaces.

Claim 8 requires a depression in the end of the cylinder. This is discussed above with respect to Claim 1 and that discussion is incorporated at this point by reference.

Accordingly, claim 8 should be allowed.

Claim 9 requires a "unitary body."

The "unitary" definition is discussed above with respect to claim 3 and that discussion is incorporated at this point by reference and while not repeated is equally applicable to claim 9.

Accordingly, claim 9 should be allowed.

Claim 10 is dependent upon claim 8 and as such contains all the limitations of claim 8.

Accordingly, claim 10 should be allowed.

Claim 11 requires a widening of the opening in claim 10, which in turn is dependent upon claim 8.

The widening of the opening is discussed with respect to claim 5 and such discussion is incorporated by reference at this point and directed to claim 11 which is dependent upon claims 10, 8 and 1.

Accordingly, claim 11 should be allowed.

Claim 12 requires specific locations of the widening of the opening in claim 11 and the discussion directed to claim 6 is incorporated at this point and directed toward claim 12, by reference.

Accordingly, claim 12 should be allowed.

Claim 13 requires a tension spring which is not present in the reference cited, House et al. Accordingly the claim is not anticipated. Claim 13 is further dependent upon claim 9 and indirectly upon claims 8 and 1. As stated above, the limitations of claims 1, 8 and 9 are not met by the cited prior art and accordingly not anticipated and allowable.

Claim 13, dependent upon allowable claims, is patentable over the House et al. reference and is therefore allowable and should be allowed.

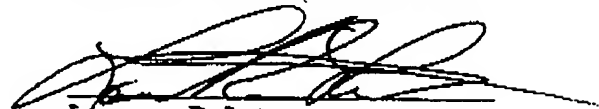
Applicant believes that the application and all claims therein are in condition for allowance and should be allowed for the reasons set forth above.

The amendments made in this amendment are for the purpose of correcting spelling and grammatical errors and were not made to overcome the prior art.

Applicant respectfully requests the entry of this amendment and the reexamination and reconsideration of claims 1 - 13, and the allowance of all claims.

Applicant's Attorney respectfully requests that Examiner telephone Applicant's Attorney to clarify any point that is not clear and that would enhance the prosecution of this application to allowance.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED



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